The NASA Glenn Research Center Macintosh User Group

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Hello fellow Mac users. Hope the summer is progressing well for everyone and you are taking some time away from your Mac to get out and enjoy the weather. I know it's difficult to pull yourself away, but try to anyway. At least once a week.

For our May meeting, we had **Peter Jacobson,** VP of Engineering, from Absoft as our first guest speaker. He gave a presentation on Absoft's Fortran Compiler. From the crowd's reaction both during and after the presentation, I'd say it was a big hit.

Next we had **John Rottluf**f and **Jacques Jordain** of Apple Computer give a presentation. They had just returned from the Developers' Conference which boasted an attendance of over 3,600 developers. That is up 40% over last year.

Jacques let us know that OS X will originally be released this summer as a public beta, and most likely will be a *FREE* download. If you want a CD, there will be a small cost to receive that. Hopefully OS X will ship on machines in early 2001.

Apple brought along some T-Shirts to raffle off, plus we had some other give aways (*FREE* software). It really does pay to come to the meetings, as you never know when you too could be a big winner!

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 28, in the TDC room in the RAC building. As far as I know right now, it is set up for 10:00 am and will probably run an hour. An email will be sent out ahead of time to verify this info, so please read it!

If anyone has anything they'd like to share with the user group, whether it be a review of their favorite software, or a demo, please be sure to contact one of the officers. We have some interesting things planned for future meetings, but we could always use more! Don't be shy.

Hope to see you on June 28th.

—Lisa Madden, editor

Free Internet Access From 1stUp.com

Reviewed For Macs

By Ben Apple - Ben@themacjunkie.com
Tuesday June 6, 2000

A few months back, I reviewed a free internet access provider called FreeI.net.

Today I'm talking about a free ISP that has just released a Mac compatible client - 1stUp.com <http://www.1stUp.com>.< http://www.themacjunkie.com/archives/6.7.00.1stup.html>
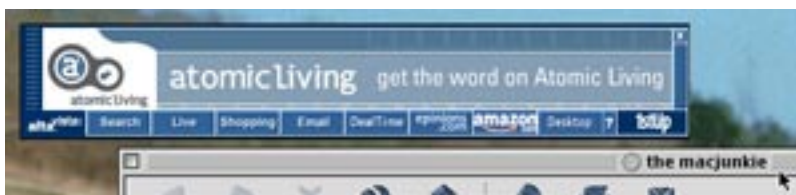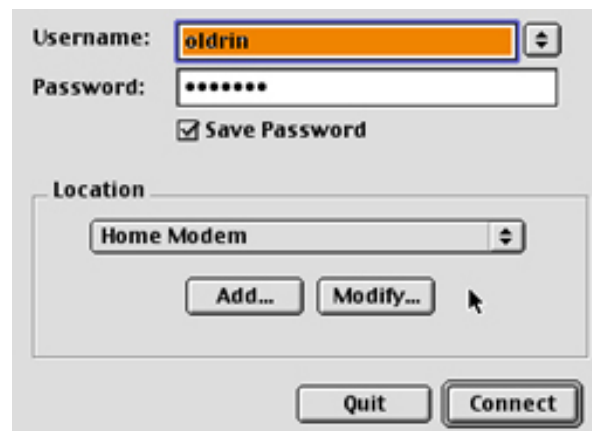
All free ISPs are based on the same concept: A user downloads a software client which is necessary to access the ISP. After dialing in, a banner ad pops up on the user's screen and stays there. The banner is in a special floating window, which means it cannot be moved off of the screen or hidden behind other windows. This guarantees that it is visible 100% of the time. It's how the free ISP can afford to "give away" the access.

There is little difference to be found between free ISPs. Even so, minor changes in setup and so forth can affect a client's ease of use, so one free ISP can be superior to another.

The first difference between FreeI.net and 1stUp is in the setup process. After a quick installation, I opened the client and figured out how to open a new account: I selected a dial-up setting and chose a local phone number. The 1stUp client dialed in as a guest and sent me to a registration web page. After finally finding an available screen name (you'd be surprised how hard it is), I dialed in a second time, using my new name and password.

1stUp's client has a unique way of doing things. Each time you open the application, it automatically selects the correct TCP/IP and Remote Access configurations. When you're finished and decide to log off, it returns your control panels to their previous settings. It comes in handy for those like myself who have primary and secondary ISPs.

FreeI.net on the other hand requires you to use a second application to configure your account. Also, you must switch TCP/IP and Remote Access configs before dialing in.

As you can see from this screenshot, 1stUp's ad banner is about 20 pixels smaller than FreeI.net's. This is because The FreeI.net bar displays one 468x60 banner as well as several very

small animated ads beneath the banner. The banner and buttons rotate, and many of the advertisements are quick-looking, flashing animations which are not at all pleasing to the eye.

Contrarily, the 1stUp bar is unobstrusive and much easier to live with.

One concern with floating windows is whether or not they will be hidden while the user plays fullscreen games. I opened StarCraft, Quake 3 Arena, and Marathon 2 to find out what 1stUp's bar would do. SC and Q3A had no trouble at all. When I loaded Marathon 2, however, the ad bar remained visible. This is understandable, though, because Marathon is not truly "fullscreen," as it has a menu bar and allows you to use the application menu to multi-task. Besides, the game often uses smaller windows (640x480), to accomodate the screen sizes of the Macs that were modern at the time of its release.

I have only experienced one disconnection so far with 1stUp, and I couldn't determine whether it was because my phone cord came loose, or rather something on the service's end. My connection seems stable, and my client hasn't crashed yet.

These comments are more than I can say for FreeI.net's services. Also, with 1stUp I was able to find a local number to dial in to. FreeI.net seemed to have a load of access numbers to choose from, yet for me none of them would have been locally billed calls.

To conclude, this is a dependable, easy to use free internet access provider. Its client is smooth and simple, and if I had to recommend a free ISP, 1stUp would be the one.

(This article is reprinted with the author's permission. Ben Apple is the Editor of the macjunkie, and his web site url is: http://www.themacjunkie.com)

Bootable Restore CD

Ever find yourself in need of a bootable restore CD for your computer? Well, check out this site and see how to create one:

http://lowendmac.com/macdan/2k0621pf.html

This is from Scott Graham <Scott.Graham@lerc.nasa.gov>

Microsoft Office 2001 for Macintosh will be released later this year. The Microsoft "Mactopia" website has a bunch of preview information on its new features, etc.

http://www.microsoft.com/macoffice/default.htm

This might be the basis for a good "heads-up" preview article. ***(Ed. Note: What a GREAT idea! Anyone, anyone???)***

Here are some shots of our May meeting. Recognize anyone?

An anxious group waiting to see who's name is picked for our raffle prizes!

Jacques Jordain of Apple Computer gave us the lowdown on the Developers' Conference.

Here's Ward asking for another handout. Just kidding. Peter is picking the name of another winner!

Check us out on the web!

http://www.lerc.nasa.gov/ WWW/AdvisoryGroups/MUG/

Peter Jacobson of Absoft was on hand to talk about their Fortran Compiler.

Great Free Software You Don't Know About!

From: "Chris Bair" <lthown@yahoo.com>

Hi there, I recently discovered two pieces of free software that might help you all out a little:

Joilet Volume Access: <http://www.tempel.org/joliet/>

Basically, this free System Extension enhances the way your Macintosh computer can read CD-ROMs from other platforms, mainly Windows. Until now, if you inserted a Windows CD-ROM in your Mac, file names may have appeared crippled (in the so-called 8.3 format) or files may have been inaccessible. This Joliet extension is designed to solve these problems.

If you have CD-ROMs with the following contents you'll likely benefit from this enhancement:
° MP3 songs
° Java class and/or source files
° web content, such as html files.
° DirectCD CD-Rs created and closed under Windows "

I was wondering when we would be able to read long filenames on Windoze CD's, well now is the time!

The second one isn't "useful" like the other, but it's so cool, you have to see it to believe it!:

Gravité: <http://www.wildbits.com/gravite/>

Want to really impress your Wintel friends? drop this control panel into your System folder and Re-start. Now when you drag files around in the finder, they obey the laws of Physics and swing around! The effect is just RAD!

Editorial Corner
Me and my Microsoft
By Greg Patt

Anybody that even remotely knows me, knows that I am a Mac man through and through! I carry a tangerine translucent Apple pen in my pocket with me every day. I mourn when I have to put a Mac Plus out of its misery and pull the plug. I have never actually thrown a Mac in the trash, no matter how many amputation of parts they may have suffered. To my wife's dismay, they decorate my basement office and garage like tombstones of brave dead soldiers that have served their mission with honor. Ten years ago I started the NASA Macintosh User's Group because I felt the Mac wasn't getting the respect it deserved among all of the rocket scientists.

I loathed the Microsoft monster with the best of them, cursing their domination and cunning in the computer world. I taped the movie, "Pirates of Silicon Valley", the story of Steve Jobs, Wozniak and Billy Gates, the early days, and watched it several times.In discussions of why someone would consciously choose an inferior operating system like Windows, I often told the story of Thomas Jefferson. Thomas, in his wisdom, created the electoral college to elect the president of his new country every four years because he really believed that the average citizen was not smart enough to make an intelligent choice.   Every time I have to explain to a Windows weenie neubie that you have to double click on a "My computer" icon and then double click on an "A drive" icon just to see your floppy, I admire Mr. J's wisdom. I suppose Window's users shouldn't be held responsible for their blindness.

Now why am I telling you all this you ask?

OK, I'll tell you. I have been following pretty closely the Microsoft anti trust suit. I find it so wrong to punish a company for producing products that get cheaper and better as time goes on. What is wrong with giving away Internet Explorer with every copy of Windows? Hey if General Motors offered me power windows for free with the purchase of my new GM ve- hicle, I would shout, "Bring it on!" In essence, the Justice department said that Microsoft should be prohibited from making Explorer available and at one point, even said they should have provided a copy of their competition, Netscape. That is like saying you should get free Burger King fries with every McDonalds happy meal! Microsoft is as big as it is because of smart marketing decisions and good products. Can anybody honestly say there is a spread- sheet product better than Excel? Can you even a NAME a current spreadsheet other than Excel? Even Apple has had success and failure because of good and bad marketing deci- sions. Now I'm sure OSs like linux and net computers will give Microsoft a run for their money in time, but they will plan a response and provide better products that consumers will choose.
That is the way it should work in this country, you pays your money and you takes your choice. The government should never be a part of that equation.

Greg was at NASA Glenn for ten years and was one of the original founders of the Glenn MUG. He now owns a printing company in Ohio City and teaches the wonders of the Macintosh in his spare time.

ALWAYS MAC MAGAZINE

Guy Kawasaki continues to let the Mac times roll with this recent addition to his fervent advocacy known as Mac Evangelism. ALWAYS MAC is an online magazine that's free (for now) and brings you product reviews and editorial opinions, all relating specifically to the world of Macintosh. To see the latest issue or to subscribe, go to:

http://www.alwaysmac.com/mag/

This is from Melissa McGuire:

Mac-based processor heading to Pluto

http://www.maccentral.com/news/0006/14.pluto.shtml

by Dennis Sellers, dsellers@maccentral.com
June 14, 2000, 7:00 am ET

MacCentral has a story of an upcoming adventure for our favorite processor

Monday we reported that SkyCorp, a satellite startup company, will fly a Power Mac G4 in an experimental satellite it's planning to deploy from the space shuttle during a flight next year (see http://www.maccentral.com/news/0006/12.skycorp.shtml for details). Evidently, the G4's "little brother," the G3 — or an offshoot thereof — will also be a chip-onaut.

According to a "Popular Science" article, NASA is planning a mission to Pluto that will use G3s to reduce the amount of people needed to run the mission.

The mission, the Pluto-Kuiper Express, is scheduled to launch in December 2004. After a 10-year trip, the spacecraft will soar by Pluto and Charon, mapping their sun-facing surfaces, according to the article.

"New software, called the Mission Data System, will be first to use a common processor, based on G3 Macintosh computers," says Popular Science. "The software will allow us to operate the spacecraft with a smaller number of people," says Staele [Robert Staele of JPL, the project manager], requiring the equivalent of eight full-time staff during cruise compared with a hundred or more for earlier missions."

TIPS and TRICKS

ZEN AND THE ART OF RAM GRABBING

Always remember: Virtual Memory is your friend. In OS 9, it reduces the amount of RAM that your hungry-hungry system needs, and it also tends to reduce the amount needed by each application—often drastically. You can compare numbers on your favorite applications with the Get Info command from the Edit menu: just select any application icon and choose Edit, Get Info. Then, choose Memory from the pop-up menu, and the Get Info dialog box will tell you how much RAM the application needs, in addition to how that will change if you turn on (or off) Virtual Memory.

Even if you've got plenty of RAM, it's a good idea to run with Virtual Memory on: set it at its minimal setting—usually one meg over your actual installed RAM. (You'll find the Virtual Memory settings in the Memory control panel.) The only drawback is that the system grabs the requisite megs from hard disk space. So if you have Virtual Memory turned on and set to 128 megs, for example, your hard drive will show up with 128 megs of space missing. (You can turn off Virtual Memory, and you get it back upon Restart.) But as long as you've got plenty of hard drive space, leave the Virtual Memory on.

NOW WATCH THIS

Ever install some little stinker of a program that you want gone-gone-gone off of your otherwise fine computer? Bet ya have. And sometimes the problem is that pesky application dropped a few arcane little preference files or extension libs in and didn't tell you. Shame!

With Zach Schneirov's **free** Installer Observer you don't have to take guff off of crummy software. This utility asks only that you scan your System Folder (or select folders within your System Folder) with Installer Observer before installing new software. After an installation, simply run Installer Observer again and click the Load and Examine Changes Made button. Installer Observer will then detail the changes made to your Mac's software.
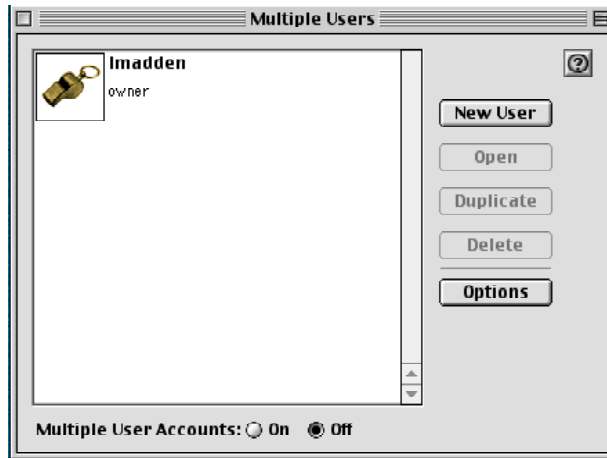
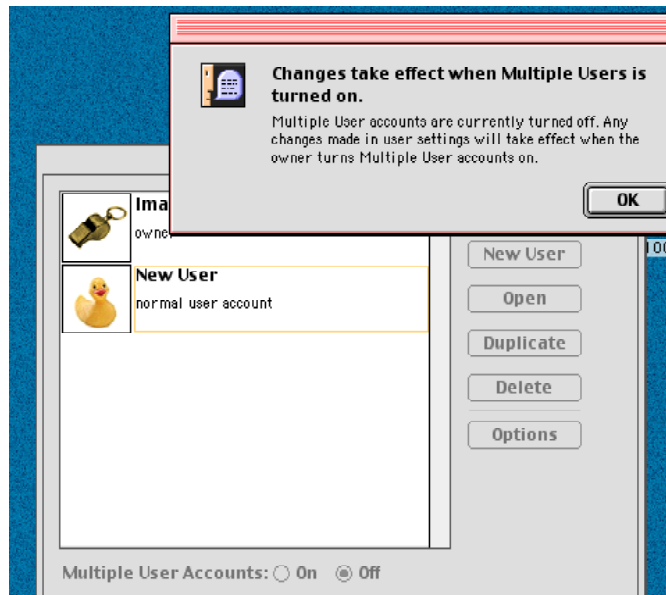# Multiple Users in OS 9x

by Lisa Madden <Lisa.Madden@grc.nasa.gov>

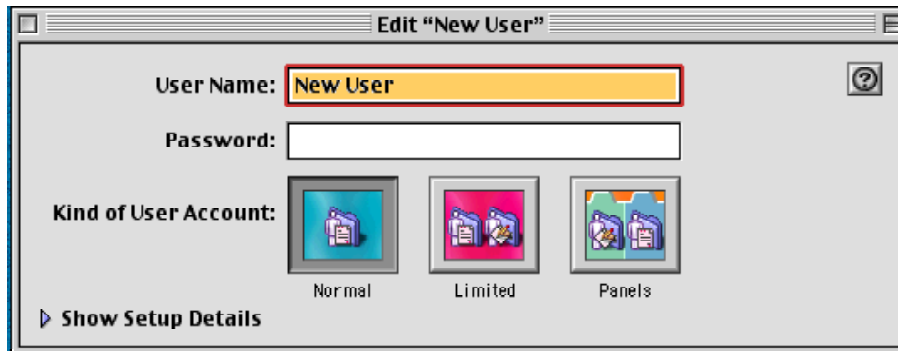Use the Multiple User Control Panel to create user accounts on your computer.

NOTE: Before using the Multiple User Control Panel, you **MUST** make sure you have entered an owner name and password in the File Sharing Control Panel. If you do not do this, you will **NOT** be able to log onto computer!
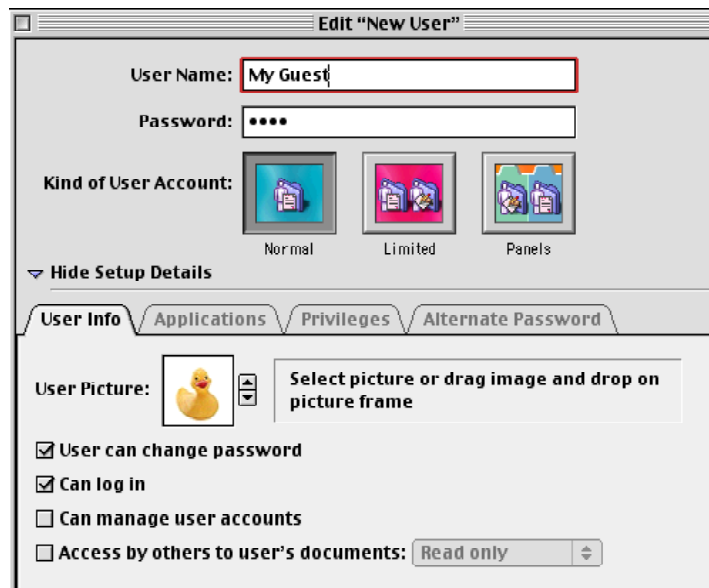
• Open Multiple User Control Panel.
• Click on "New User."

• Enter user name and password (this is optional)
• Select type of user (normal, limited, or panels - see help menu for explanations)
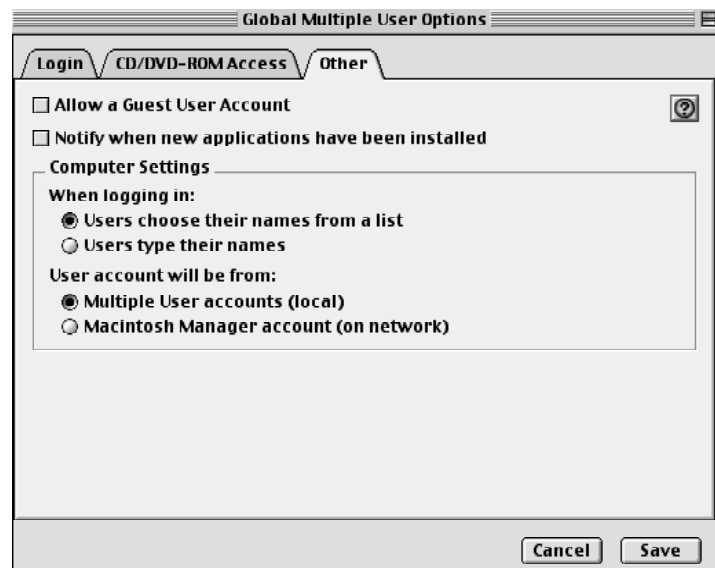
• Click show setup details

• Set up the log in dialog box for each user by selecting an existing icon or dragging one from a web browser (or use a scan of the person's face in jpeg format)

• Other settings:

    • User changeable password: allows user to change password you set up.
    • Can Log In: if this is not checked, the user account is temporarily disabled.
    • Can Manage User Account: This user (acct mgr) can create, delete, or modify other accounts (not owner's).

• Click on close box to save the settings

You may also create multiple users with the same settings.

• Select the user whose settings you want to duplicate and click Duplicate.
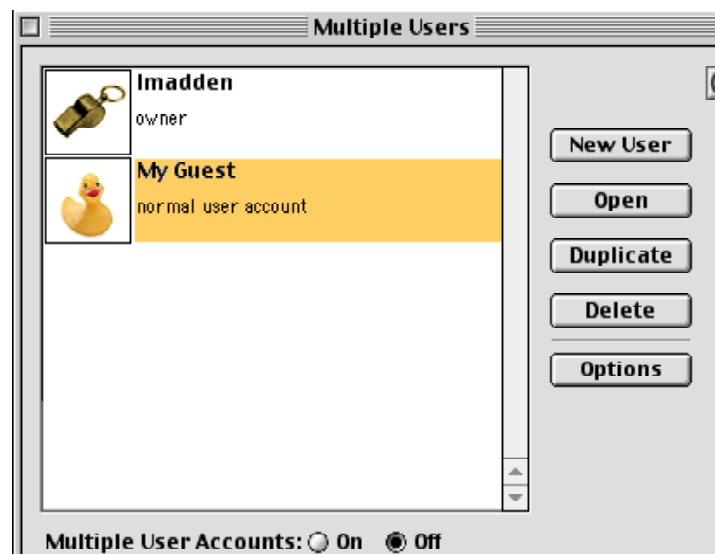
If you want to edit a user account:

• Double-click the user name or select the user name and click Open and then you may make the changes you want.

If you want to set up a guest account:

• Click Options, then click the Other tab and select the "Allow a Guest User Account" check box.

To Log In:

• Select your name from the list, or enter your name.
• Click "Log In"
• Enter your password.

To turn Multiple Users off:

• Open the Multiple Users Control Panel
• Click the On or Off button (only the owner can turn Multiple Users on or off)

NOTE: *If you (the owner) are the only user on your machine, you may prevent other users from logging in by turning Multiple Users on.*

In The News

This is from Melissa McGuire <Melissa.McGuire@grc.nasa.gov>

What's happened since last month

* On June 21, Apple's stock split in a two for one ratio.
* On June 21, a federal judge ordered that Microsoft's appeal would go directly to the supreme court
* Game maker, Bungie, was acquired by Microsoft
* Apple and RealNetworks announced internet streaming collaboration http://www.apple.com/pr/library/2000/june/12realnetworks.html
* Microsoft released preliminary details for Office 2001 for the Macintosh
* Handspring, the makers of the Visor PDA, went public

Coming in July
* MacWorld New York conference, July 19-21

WANTED

An article by you for the GRApple Newsletter.
Send all reviews, tips, articles, to
Lisa Madden, Editor at:
Lisa.Madden@grc.nasa.gov

Don't make me come lookin' fer ya.